

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 21, 1958

SUBJECT: Berlin

PARTICIPANTS:

M. Louis Joxe, Secretary-General, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hervé Alphand, French Ambassador
M. Charles Lucet, Minister, French Embassy
M. Jean de la Grandville, Counselor, French Embassy
M. Pierre Pelen, Counselor, French Embassy
M. Olivier Manet, Counselor, French Embassy

COPIES TO:

Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, EUR
Mr. Philip J. Farley, S/AE
Mr. Robert H. McBride, WE
Mr. Alfred G. Vigdeman, GER
RA - Mr. B.E.L. Timmons,
WE - Mr. L. Dean Brown
WE - Mr. Matthew J. Looman

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M. Joxe said that the Soviets are not playing little games but engaged in a major maneuver. We must remain firm. Adenauer took the best position possible in the talk with Smirnov.

Mr. Merchant said that Adenauer had acted with firmness and resolution. The US, UK, and France must consider various contingencies. The Germans must be brought in early and kept with us. In addition to the Bonn Working Group, we may want to suggest a supplementary forum for discussing the problem.

Mr. Merchant said that he wanted to reaffirm what the Acting Secretary had said the day before: France has the same conception of the threat as we have. We are firm and will remain so.

M. Joxe inquired about the UK, saying that the UK paper seemed to show a sort of uncertainty of purpose. He wondered if the UK would go so far as to suggest recognition of the GDR.

Mr. Merchant said that the latest information we have from London is that the British do not regard the paper as a final document. The meeting of the three Ambassadors with von Brentano had had salutary effect in this connection.

M. Joxe said that we must confront the Soviets with total solidarity.

Mr. Merchant agreed.

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